



# Oklahoma Historical Society *Research Center*

## AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE GUIDE

### African American Newspapers on Microfilm

The OHS Research Center houses the largest collection of Oklahoma newspapers in the state, including numerous African American publications. Listed below are titles and founding dates of African American newspapers in the OHS collection.

#### Ardmore

*Baptist Rival*, 1902  
*Indian Territory Sun*, 1901

#### Boley

*Beacon*, 1908  
*Boley Informer*, 1911  
*Boley News*, 1918  
*Boley Progress*, 1905  
*Boley Weekly Progress*, 1926

#### Bookertee

*Bookertee Searchlight*, 1917

#### Castle

*Castle News*, 1908

#### Clearview

*Clearview Patriarch*, 1913  
*Clearview Tribune*, 1904  
*Lincoln Tribune*, 1904  
*Patriarch*, 1913

#### Fallis

*Fallis Blade*, 1904

#### Garvin

*Garvin Pioneer*, 1908

#### Guthrie

*Guthrie Progress*, 1903  
*Oklahoma Guide*, 1892  
*Oklahoma Safeguard*, 1894  
*Western World*, 1902

#### Langston

*Church and State*, 1911  
*Langston City Herald*, 1891  
*Western Age*, 1904

#### Muskogee

*Baptist Informer*, 1909  
*Daily Search Light*  
*Muskogee Lantern*, 1902  
*Muskogee Cimeter*, 1901

*Muskogee Comet*, 1904

*Muskogee Star*, 1912

*Oklahoma Independent*, 1936

*Pioneer*, 1898

*Saturday Evening Tribune*, 1913

*Tattler*, 1915

#### Oklahoma City

*Black Chronicle*, 1979  
*Black Dispatch*, 1914  
*Ebony Tribune*, 1926  
*Oklahoma Dispatch*, 1983

#### Taft

*Taft Enterprise*, 1912

#### Tulsa

*Oklahoma Eagle*, 1921  
*Oklahoma Sun*, 1920  
*Tulsa Guide*, 1906  
*Tulsa Star*, 1913

### ONLINE RESOURCES

#### The Gateway to Oklahoma History

[gateway.okhistory.org](http://gateway.okhistory.org)

Search and view historic photos, newspapers, maps, and more.

#### The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

[okhistory.org/encyclopedia](http://okhistory.org/encyclopedia)

Read more than 2,500 entries about the people, places, and events that shape Oklahoma's history.

#### Film and Video on YouTube

[youtube.com/user/OHSfilm](http://youtube.com/user/OHSfilm)

[youtube.com/user/kforarchives](http://youtube.com/user/kforarchives)

View selections from OHS film and video archives and the WKY/KFOR collection on YouTube.

#### Oral Histories on YouTube

[youtube.com/user/OHSAudioDept](http://youtube.com/user/OHSAudioDept)

Select oral histories are available.

#### Historic Places

State Historic Preservation Office

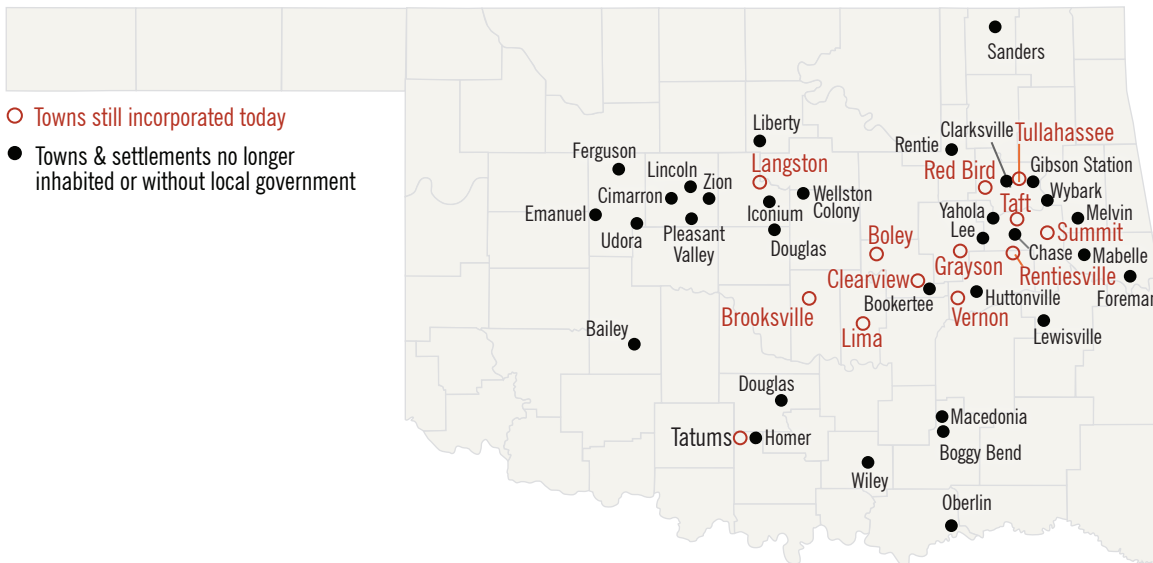
[okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm)

Explore the National Register of Historic Places and the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

### All-Black Towns in Oklahoma

Learn about All-Black towns in our online exhibit and in the *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. The Oklahoma History Center also offers a traveling exhibit.

[okhistory.org/historycenter/blacktowns/mainmenu.php](http://okhistory.org/historycenter/blacktowns/mainmenu.php) | [okhistory.org/encyclopedia](http://okhistory.org/encyclopedia)



## Manuscript Collections

The OHS manuscript archives contain paper items including letters, scrapbooks, and journals, personal or business-related records and correspondence, brochures and ephemera. The collections listed here include a variety of materials pertaining to African American history in Oklahoma.

**Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Collection 2006.55:** includes a marriage certificate, greeting cards, 1992 Langston University yearbook, a working manuscript and research for her autobiography, and other personal items.

**African American School Records, Garvin County 2007.31:** records of teachers in District 46. The schools included are Sweet Home, Avery View, and Avriett View.

**Charles and Barbara Burton Collection 2008.96:** publicity material for the musical performances of Charles and Barbara Burton.

**Currie Ballard Collection 2007.148:** created by Currie Ballard, a collector of African American historical items; collection includes letters, commission records, and ephemera.

**Jerusalem Community Missionary Baptist Church Collection 2010.79:** four record books from the church in Washington, Oklahoma. Most feature pastor B. F. Daniels and were recorded by secretary Myrtle Goff.

**Katie Mae Watkins Collection 2008.28:** Includes scrapbooks highlighting the career of civic leader Katie Mae Watkins.

**Jimmy Stewart Collection 2006.75:** James Stewart (1912–1997) served as a leader in the Oklahoma City civil rights movement. His collection includes manuscripts, photographs, and audio visual materials.

**Zella Patterson Collection 1983.09:** Zella Patterson (1909–1986) was head of the Home Economics Department at Langston University from 1965 to 1971. She co-authored *Langston University: A History and Churches of Langston*.

**Lucius Curry Collection 2006.40:** collection contains funeral programs for African American Oklahomans.

**Dr. James L. and Lois L. Mosley Collection 2010.69:** contains documents related to the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers during the 1940s–1950s.

**Cherokee Freedmen Collection 1981.111:** contains photocopies of Cherokee Freedmen applications.

**Chickasaw Nation Constitution and Laws Collection 2013.255:** a copy of the Chickasaw Nation Constitution and Laws. Laws regarding Freedmen are included.

**Clara Luper Collection 2012.188:** contains decades of correspondence, event programs, fliers, business information and church information collected by civil rights leader Clara Luper. The collection covers the last forty years of Luper's life.

**Dunbar High School (Shawnee, OK) Alumni Association Collection 2011.136:** scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and alumni information for the high school.

**F. D. Moon Collection 1997.016:** letters written by or received by F. D. Moon 1932–1940. During this period, Moon was in charge of the African American Schools in Wewoka, a leader of the Langston Alumni Association, and an advocate of higher education for African Americans.

**Federal Writers Collection 1981.105:** ex-slave narratives and biographies of African Americans in Oklahoma. Collection also contains information on towns, monuments, and schools.

**Finley-Slaughter Family Collection 2009.159:** diplomas, certificates, licenses, and awards from the lives and careers of Dr. Gravelly Eugene Finley Sr., Gravelly Eugene Finley Jr., Wyatt Hardy Slaughter, and Saretta Slaughter Finley.

**Hannah Atkins Collection 2007.114:** personal papers, publications, newspaper clippings, speeches, political campaign material and memorabilia which document Atkins' years of public service and involvement in politics, women's issues, education, and civil rights.

**Issac Kimbro Collection 2008.161:** materials related to Evelyn La Rue Pittman and her lyric theater compositions.

**Jake and Joan Diggs Collection 2007.110:** contains Diggs family papers with a focus on the lives and careers of Jake and Joan Diggs; includes business and personal correspondence, financial and legal documents, ephemera, and administrative documents.

**Kevin Cox Collection 2013.227:** items relating to the career of Oklahoma State Representative Kevin Cox including programs, newspaper articles, correspondence, and papers related to the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus.

**Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Collection 2013.415:** contains interviews and nominations for the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame.

**Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs 2011.154:** photographs, scrapbooks, ledgers, paintings, and financial records documenting the history of this organization.

**Robert L. Williams Collection 1982.115:** consists of professional papers accumulated during his service as governor of Oklahoma and US District Court judge.

**Rubye Hall Collection 2006.006:** personal and business correspondence, meeting minutes of several clubs and groups, photographs, news-clippings, and awards and certificates.

**Samuel W. Brown Collection 1992.001:** information about Creek and Euchee Indians including education, allotments, and the Indian Welfare Act. Also includes correspondence, ledger books, deeds, guardianships, litigation, land documents, probate cases, and memorials.

**Sapulpa Historical Society Collection 2007.057:** contains materials donated from the museum in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

**Shirley Nero Collection 2011.293:** quarterly report of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame October 19, 2011, and program from the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. First Induction Ceremony and Banquet dated September 30, 2011.

**Sylvia Pollard Driggins Collection 2013.256:** articles, awards, and correspondence highlighting Sylvia Pollard Driggins' achievements as Miss Black Oklahoma, as a performer, and as a humanitarian.

**William H. Murray Collection 1982.294:** correspondence, documents, and scrapbooks concerning Murray's time as governor.

**Winner Williams Collection 2008.048:** includes copies of galleys from the comic strip "Winner Williams" that ran in the *Black Dispatch* from 1969 to August 1971 and the *Oklahoma City Times* from September 1971 to April 1973. Also includes copy of *The Gospel According to Winner, Larry and Friends*, the book written by Dr. Hall and Don Heath about their comic strip.



## SEARCH THE RESEARCH CATALOG ONLINE

Visit the OHS online catalog to explore more of our holdings including manuscripts, maps, oral histories, film and video, photos, books, periodicals, and newspapers.

[okhistory.org/catalog](http://okhistory.org/catalog)

## Oral Histories

### Slave Narratives

In the 1930s, the Federal Writers Project employed writers to interview former slaves. These interviews bring to light stories of Oklahomans native to the land and of those who moved to the area after the Civil War in hopes of establishing a new home. The narratives from Oklahoma are also unique in that they include experiences of those enslaved by American Indian tribes.

*The WPA Oklahoma Slave Narratives* by T. Lindsay Baker and Julie P. Baker frames these narratives through extensive research on the interviews. This book is available at the OHS Research Center.

### Indian Pioneer Histories

In conjunction with the Works Progress Administration about 25,000 oral histories were conducted across the state. Those who were interviewed provided insight about what life in Oklahoma was like prior to and during the annexation of the Twin Territories.

[digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer/](http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer/)

### OHS Oral History Collection

Among oral histories collected by the Oklahoma Historical Society are hundreds of interviews exploring African American history in Oklahoma. Included are authors, community leaders, veterans, educators, and citizens. Oral histories from political leaders and historians are also available. Just a few highlights from the collection include:

Hannah Atkins	Fannie Hill
Governor Henry Bellmon	Senator Maxine Horner
Wayne Chandler	Rev. W. K. Jackson
Colonel Major Clark	M. W. Lee
Dr. George Lynn Cross	Clarence Love
Rev. Charles Davis	Frederick Douglass Moon
Charles Ellison	Zella Patterson
Ralph Ellison	Julius Pegues
Ernie Fields Sr.	E. Melvin Porter
Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher	Representative Don Ross
Dr. Eddy Faye Gates	Edna R. Slaughter
Ed Goodwin	James "Jimmy" Stewart
James O. Goodwin	Jack and Mildred Todd
Ira Hall	Wesley Young
Rubye Hall	Veterans of World War II
Archibald Hill	

### Oral Histories on YouTube

Select oral histories from the collection are available on YouTube. [youtube.com/user/OHSaudioDept](http://youtube.com/user/OHSaudioDept)

## Additional Resources for Research

### Freedmen's Bureau

The US Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, or the Freedmen's Bureau, was created by the US government to assist former slaves. The bureau was established in the eleven rebel states, three border states, Washington, D. C., and Indian Territory in March 1865; it ceased to exist in summer of 1872. During its operation the bureau provided resources for African Americans including legalizing marriages, reuniting family members, and recording genealogical information.

In Indian Territory agents of the Freedmen's Bureau experienced difficulties. Freedmen in the territory generally had close relationships with the tribes. When new treaties were negotiated with the tribes after the Civil War the bureau ceased operations, therefore cutting funding for education and assimilation efforts.

The Freedmen's Bureau records have been microfilmed and are available at the National Archives. Various institutions are currently indexing the records which will make them more accessible to researchers. FamilySearch currently offers access to Freedman's Bureau marriage records, 1815–1869, at [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

### Freedmen's Bank

The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, also known as the Freedmen's Bank, was established in 1865 and maintained operations until 1874. The bank allowed newly-freed slaves to open their own bank account. The Freedmen's Bank records provide researchers information from forms that were required at the time an account was opened. The Freedmen's Bank was established in 17 states with 37 operating branches. The records have been microfilmed and are available at the National Archives; they are also online through HeritageQuest (subscription required) and for free at [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

### Military Records

Military records of African American servicemen have been kept since the American Revolution. During the Civil War, the United States Colored Troops was formed and kept records of the 185,000 members. These records can be found at the National Archives. The National Park Service offers an online Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database which includes the names of individuals who served at [nps.gov/civilwar](https://www.nps.gov/civilwar).

### Emancipation Petition Records - Washington, D. C.

In 1862, slave owners and former slaves were able to post slave schedules in order to receive compensation from the US federal government, as per the Emancipation Act. These records can include names, ages, gender, residence, familial ties, and personal descriptions. These records can be found at the National Archives or on Ancestry.com (with a subscription).

### Southern Claims Commission

The Southern Claims Commission records contain information about those who lived in the south, but remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. These records can include personal descriptions, military records, letters, diaries, family bible records, wills, testimonies, and probate records. The testimonies were given by those who applied, and provide information about family members and neighbors in the county in which the applicant resided. These records can be found at the National Archives or on Ancestry.com (with a subscription).

### US Census Records

Census records are a valuable resource, but it is important to keep in mind some limitations pertaining to African American records. Although free African American families may be listed in the 1850 and 1860 census, slaves were enumerated in a separate schedule which did not include the individual's name.

Slaves who died in the year preceding the 1850 or 1860 census may be listed in the mortality schedules for those census years. Mortality schedules listed the individual's name, age, sex, and birthplace. Census records can be found at the National Archives, online at Ancestry.com (with a subscription) or online for free at [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

